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[citation information]

Collection title: Corcoran Gallery of Art and Corcoran College of Art + Design, Corcoran Gallery of Art directors' records

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Series 1: MacLeod, Barbarin and McGuire records

Subseries 1: Indexed correspondence

Box 2008-001

Folder 72: Letters 711-720

[Front of Letter 711]

Neagle, G.C., Phila Nov 22/75

Nov 23/75, 23/75

With regard to the Dearborn portrait.

[The pages of Letter 711 are scanned out of reading order and contain two duplicate scanned pages of the letter content. The letter was transcribed in order and does not include the duplicate content.]

[Letter 711]

No 226 South Third St. Philada Nov 22. 1875

William MacLeod, Esq., Curator of "Corcoran Gallery of Art" Washington D.C.

My dear Sir,

Yours of the 15th inst. in reference to the "Dearborn" portrait by Stuart, was received in due time. I have delayed answering it sooner, for the reason that I have had an offer for it here, but the would be purchaser is hesitating between \$375. and \$400. - the last named being the price I want for it.

I am sorry that I cannot give you any authentic proof that it is the work of "Stuart" - with you, I believe it is. There is not the least doubt in my mind about it. My father, the late John Neagle who was a pupil of Stuart, considered it a fine specimen of his, as also, did my grandfather the late Thomas Sully. It was seen by many leading Artists and Art Critics at the sale of Thos. Sully's private collection of paintings & engravings, after his death, Dec. 1872 - and was much admired, and would have then been sold but my limit on it was \$600. - and the time being a bad one for the sale of paintings.

=You speak of its being so inferior to the famous ["Shippen"] portrait, that might be and still be a fine painting. All artists, at some times, paint better than as others. I saw an illustration of this only a day or two since, when called upon to witness two paintings by the late Thos. Sully, one was painted in the year 1846 and the other in 1864 and strange to say, that while both were beautifully executed, the one painted in 1864, being about eight years prior to his death and then over 80 years of age - was far superior as a work of art, to the one painted 26 years prior to his death - both pictures bearing his endorsement with date etc. The endorsement on the back of the "Dearborn" portrait is in my fathers hand-writing, this much I can vouch for. I would rather that your Committee would purchase the picture for the price named \$400. - as it has been in your possession for a long time, and in so doing, there will be no additional expense to be incurred in expressing it back to me.

Please let me hear from you by Thursday or Friday of this week, if possible. And oblige

Yours truly,
Garrett C. Neagle

P.S. Have you any paintings by my father in the "Corcoran Gallery of Art", if so, will you be good enough to name them or give me a catalogue? I have a beautiful copy by him of Sir Thos. Lawrence's fine portrait of the late Robt. [Gilmore?] of Baltimore - Do you think that the Art Com. would purchase it at this time? G.C.U.

[Front of Letter 712]

Neagle G.C., Phila Nov 24. 1875

Nov 25/75, 26/75

Wishes \$400 for the "Dearborn", or \$500 for the "Dearborn" & [Letcher?].

[Letter 712]

[The pages of Letter 712 are scanned out of reading order but are transcribed in order.]

No 226 South Third St., Philada Nov 25/75

William MacLeod, Esq., Curator of "Corcoran Gallery of Art", Washington D.C.

My dear Sir,

Yours of yesterday is at hand - You have been misinformed as to the price of the "Dearborn" picture, as I have never offered it to anyone for \$200. - You have confounded it with the "Jefferson and Jackson" portraits which were rated at that figure. In your of April 7th, [ults?] you asked the price of the "Jackson", that being the only one that the Secretary of War desired to have, [The others?] offering \$200.- for it and frame. In [answer?] there to, I wrote Apr 8th stating "that I would accept the price named viz. \$200.- for the 'Jackson' portrait, but I never offered to dispose of the 'Dearborn' for a like amount."

I have, my dear Sir, a standing offer here of \$250.- for it, and a still later one of \$375.- as I informed you yesterday.

My dear Sir, you and the Gentlemen comprising the Committee, being excellent judges of the Fine Arts, will surely agree with me when I say that \$400.- is a very reasonable figure for a Stuart picture, and as good a specimen as the one now before you. I suppose that \$1000.- would not purchase the "Shippen" picture.

You will certainly not object giving me \$400.- for the Dearborn - It has been in our family for at least 40 years, and there is no doubt of its being a genuine Stuart.

As to the Col. Johnson portrait, I cannot say to a certainty, as there was a copy made by one of fathers pupils - the original picture I know, was sold to a gentleman of this City, when fathers effects were disposed of at Auction, at the same time was sold an original portrait of Ex. Gov. Letcher of Ky. this last named, is at present in my possession, this picture was also, copied. - Would you like to have the one I have? I will dispose of it for \$125.- It is a bold [head?], in my father's best style.

Take the "Dearborn and Letcher" for \$500.- Please let me hear from you at your early convenience, and believe me,

Yours Very truly,
Garrett C. Neagle

[Front of Letter 713]
Lansburgh Bro., Nov 26. 1875
Nov 26/75.
Encloses Invoice of Diagonal. price 47 1/2¢ per yard.

[Letter 713]

[Lettercard of Lansburgh & Brother, Dry Goods, Nos. 404 & 406 Seventh Street, Washington, D.C.]
Nov 26 1875

Mr. W. Macleod

Dear Sir,

We [have your herewith?] Invoice of Diagonals. We are very much pleased with the color and you will be as well. We came as near as we could to 500 yds [and chgr shim?] at 47 1/2¢. 2 1/2¢

less than bargaining for. Soliciting your [illegible] [kind offers and promising to do as well as any House in the Country?]

We Remain Respectfully Yours
Landsburgh & Bro.

[Front of Letter 714]
Shedd, Mrs. Julia A., Providence R.I., Nov. 25. 1875
Nov 27/75, 27/75
Has Recvd Photographs & encloses. \$2.10.

[Letter 714]

Providence R.I. Nov. 25/75
Mr. MacLeod

Dear Sir,

The photographs of "Charlotte Corday" and "[Fein?] and Fright" were duly rec'd for which please accept our thanks. They are both admirable. Did you secure the painting by Meissonnier of which we saw a photograph, or is that the one just purchased by A.T. Stewart for such an enormous sum?

I hope I shall not trespass too much upon your time and patience if I send to you occasionally for information concerning new acquisitions at the Corcoran Gallery. I shall not forget my pleasant visit there or lose my interest [in] [sic] such a noble institution. I am especially desirous to hear of the safe arrival of the new pieces of sculpture.

The list of photographs and prices which you mentioned in your letter are not rec'd.

Enclosed please find \$2.10 for pictures and stamps. In sending photographs in the future will you please to send them unmounted, as the large cards get crushed in the mail.

Respectfully and truly yours
Julia A. Shedd

[Front of Letter 715]
Neagle, G.C., Nov 26. 1875
Nov 27/75, Dec 2/75
If the Dearborn is purchased for \$400. will present the Jackson.

[Letter 715]

[Enclosures for Letter 715 are scanned in the middle of the letter and not at the end. The letter is transcribed as it should read and the enclosures are mentioned at the end]

No 226 South Third St., Philada November 26 1875

William MacLeod, Esq.

My dear Sir,

Yours of yesterday is received. I hope that you will not think that there being a chance to dispose of my portrait of Genl. Dearborn by Stuart, that I have taken advantage of it by advancing my price on it, as such is not the case, I can assure you.

I am sorry that I have not made the matter clearer than I seem to have done. The impression or understanding that I would dispose of the Dearborn portrait for the sum of \$200.- arose, no doubt, from the contents of a letter from me to the Hon. [T.?]O. Howe, (Copy enclosed) under date of March 10th. 75 - in which after having offered these two portraits in question, viz. Jackson and Dearborn to the Library Committee of Congress for a much higher figure, on another occasion, concluded as per the letter above referred to, rather than to allow an opportunity of selling to pass by, to present the Jackson portrait to the Committee, should they purchase the Dearborn for \$400.- I cannot find a copy of my letter to Mr. Clark, of March 9th, being the day before the one above alluded to was written, and to which you refer and quote, but it was based upon this letter of Mar. 10th. to Mr. Howe.

I wrote to Mr. Leonard Myers, on Feb. 10/74, offering the Dearborn to the Library of Committee for \$800.- Again, I wrote to Mr. Howe, May 26. 1874, he being Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, accepting his offer of \$200.- for the Jefferson portrait and then offered to sell the portrait of Dearborn at the still reduced figure of \$500.-

Yours of April 2/75, stating that the Secretary of War wished the Jackson picture and would pay \$200.- for it, in reply thereto, I accepted his offer, but nothing was said by me about the Dearborn for the reason that the concluding paragraph in said letter read thus, "The Art Committee is not inclined to purchase the Dearborn", thereby inferring, that they had finally decided not to purchase, and the matter was at rest. I believe that my next letter in reference to it was to Mr. Clark, to have the same returned to me, which was but a short time since.

I wrote you on March 29/75, that Mr. Clark had informed me that he had placed the Jackson & Dearborn, in your care at the "Corcoran Gallery of Art", then giving you a description of each picture, particularly the Dearborn by Stuart, which your Committee had doubts about its being an original and in that letter I closed by stating that the limit placed upon it by me at the sale of Mr. Sully's collection of paintings [etc.?] was \$800.- This picture is very, very reasonable at the price I ask, viz. \$400.- and I trust that the Committee may re-consider the matter and purchase it as I should like its destination to be in the Corcoran Gallery of Art".-

I thank you kindly, my Dear Sir, for the interest that you have taken and hope that your interview with Mr. Corcoran may terminate in its purchase at the price above named viz. \$400.-

Should Mr. Corcoran or the Art Committee accept or decline purchasing, be good enough to write me by Wednesday of the coming week, if convenient - and oblige

Yours very truly,
Garrett C. Neagle.

[Enclosures to letter 715 include letters mentioned to Mr. Edward Clark from G.C. Neagle, to G.C. Neagle from Mr. Clark and to Mr. T.A. Howe from G.C. Neagle]

[Front of Letter 716]
Le Conte, Miss Eva, Nov 27/75
Nov 27/75, 27/75
Wishes to Copy in Gallery.

[Letter 716]

Gentlemen -

I wish to avail myself of the privilege of copying from the casts, bronzes and paintings in the gallery & desire to have your permission to do so under the regulations which I have signed -
Eva Le Conte
Nov 27th

[Front of Letter 717]
Suter J. Hope, Zanesville O, Nov 27, 1875
Nov 29/75, 29/75
Asks price of Photographs.

[Letter 717]

[Letterhead of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, Ohio and Chicago Divisions, David Lee, Office Master of Road, Zanesville, O.]
Nov. 23rd 1875

Curator, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

I noticed in Appletons "Art Journal", some time since, that photographs of the choice works in your gallery have been made and are for sale. I should be pleased to be made acquainted with the times, sizes etc. and enclose stamp for answer.

Respy. yours,
J. Hope Sutor
Lock Box 1088

[Front of Letter 718]
Stewart, Jos. J., Balt. Nov 29/75, 149 [Carrollton?] Av.
Nov 30/ 75, Dec 2/75
Will take \$800 for the Pulaski Bust.

[Letter 718]

No 149 [Carrollton?] Av., Baltimore Nov 29 1875
William MacLeod Esq Curator Corcoran Art Gallery

Dear Sir

In response to the inquiry contained in your [favor?] of the 27th inst just received, I would say that while I had hoped to receive at least \$1000 for the Pulaski bust, (and to sell it for [less?]) involves [less?] if the gentlemen of the [Committee?] think they cannot give so much, I am willing to take \$800, rather than fail in securing a positive for it where its merits can be seen and appreciated by lovers of art and admirers of the hero who lost his life for the republic. The block of marble cost \$500- and you [thereby?] get over two years of art labor resulting in a beautiful work for \$300. Let me hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours Respy,
Jos. J. Stewart

[Front of Letter 719]
Ford, S. Calvert, Dec 2. 1875
To Dr Hall
Answer to question Is gas injurious to paintings?

[Letter 719]

[Letterhead of the Office U.S. Inspector of Gas and Meters, No. 403 Tenth Street, Washington, D.C.]
December 2nd 1875

Doctor James C. Hall

Dear Sir,

In answer to your inquiry whether the use of coal gas, for illuminating purposes in the Corcoran Art Gallery, would owing to the sulphureous compounds contained in the gas be a cause of injury to the paintings.

I will state that I believe, there is no danger, if the Gallery is well ventilated, and as long as the gas is as well purified as it is at present. The law of congress requires that the gas, shall not contain more than 20 grains of Sulphur in any form in one hundred cubic feet, and the gas now furnished by the Washington Gas Light Company does not contain on an average 10.52 grains of sulphur in one hundred cubic feet.

From lists made with solutions of acetate of lead, and nitrate of silver, in distilled water. I do not find the presence of sulphurated hydrogen in the gas, this being the sulphur compound which renders coal gas so injurious to life, occasioning suffocating vapors, like those arising from burning of brimstone, it tarnishes metals, changes the color of most kinds of paint, and furniture hangings.

Very respectfully, Your Obt. Servant
S. Calvert, Ford
Inspector of Gas & Meters

[Front of Letter 720]
Walters, W.T., Balt Dec 3. 1875
Dec 4/75, Dec 4/75
Encloses letter from W. Lucas. Picture & Vase will arrive in a few days.

[Letter 720]

[Letter 720 has two enclosed letters transcribed]

Mr. MacLeod

I enclose letter from Mr. Lucas, Invoice I keep - You should receive the things by this day week - steamer is due any day after today - rough weather may make some detention - will attend to forwarding at first possible moment -

Your Friend
WT. Walters

[Enclosed Letter #1]

Paris November 12th 1875
Mr. W.T. Walters, Trustee

I received yours of 29th October 12 hours after receiving letter same date from Mr. Riggs enclosing bill of Exchange for [1000?] -

The Detaille bust arrived from Brussels is packed and will leave tomorrow to be shipped on the Leipzig from Southampton 20th November - with it I will send also a very fine [Neck] Vase which I have bought for it and another constituting a pair he asked 6000frs, or 3500 for the one I [bot?] which was much the finer, and 2500 for the other, had a great deal of difficulty in getting it - after explaining it would be a permanent advertisement for him in America I got him down to 2000frs when I offered him 1500frs which he refused + it was only after showing and giving him the Stereoscope which you sent me of the building + Hall in which he recognised the first vase that he consented to accept my offer of 1500 - It would be well if you have other views to send me some to be used in such cases -

The [Barye?] Ex is to open "They say about 20th November to last a month - It is to be composed of a full set of his [Bronzes?] left by him in his rooms - a painting by him of a [Scion?] - [aquarells?] - plasters [illegible] after the Ex a sale is to be made by [Durand Ruel?] of everything he leaves - including the moulds provided no one person or persons is found before the sale to purchase them in block no doubt there will be somethings - may be plasters that the Corcoran should have but as the Ex will last a month I will have time to communicate with you about it.

Would it be well to buy more bronzes to make the set more complete for when the moulds are bought by Tom, Dick & Harry - they would be [insuch?] Barye Bronzes -

By next steamer it is possible that I may have ready the Michael Angelo Casts + may be some others but there is nothing certain.

The Louvre has no cast of an Augustus in Military costumes.

Your friend
Geo. A. Lucas

[Enclosed Letter #2]
21 Rue de l'Arc de Triomphe, Paris
16th November 1875

Mr. Wm S Walters
Trustee Corcoran Gallery of Art

Dear Sir

I enclose your copy of invoice of 2 cases for The Corcoran Gallery of Art. These cases will be shipped on the Steamer Leipzig, sailing from Southampton the 20th November.

The catalogues will be found in the hollow portion of the back of the frame.

Yours most truly
G.A. Lucas